



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sanjay Bhardwaj Art Unit: 2661
Serial No.: 09/771,172 Examiner: Unknown
Filed: January 26, 2001 Docket: 109612.00022
For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BYTE ROTATION**

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter and consider this amendment prior to initial examination in this application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-22 and add the following claims:

23. A data alignment apparatus, comprising:
- an input for receiving an input temporal series of parallel-formatted input groups of digital data units;
 - a data aligner coupled to said input and responsive to said input series for producing an output temporal series of parallel-formatted output groups of said digital data units;
 - an output coupled to said data aligner for outputting said output series;
 - said data aligner including a buffer coupled to said input for storing data units of a first said input group while a second said input group is received at said input, and a combiner coupled to said buffer and said input for producing one of said output groups

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Cost.